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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO

New Delhi, India, 21 January - 8 February 1980

FIFTH CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17-21 October 1979

RESOLUTION 5 (V): COMMON AFRICAN POSITION AT UNIDO III

The Conference of African Ministers of Industry,

Guided by the Monrovia Declaration of Commitment of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on Guidelines and Measures for National and Collective Self-reliance in Social and Economic Development for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,^{1/}

Mindful of the OAU decision taken by the Organization of African Unity to hold a special Summit on Economic Development of Africa in 1980 and of the need for the Conference of African Ministers of Industry to provide an input to the examination of the industrial sector by this Summit,

Recalling OAU resolution CM/Res.561 (XXIX) and CM/Res.772 (XXXIII) of the Organisation of African Unity and resolution 7 (IV) of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, all of which pertain to the Third General Conference of UNIDO,

^{1/} AHS/ST.3 (XVI).

Taking into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of the African Regional Symposium on Industrial Policies and Strategies for Internally Self-sustaining Development and Diversification and Collective Self-reliance during the period 1978-2000,^{2/}

Also taking into consideration the preparatory activities undertaken by UNIDO for the Conference, including the recommendations contained in the study entitled "Industry 2000: New perspectives"^{3/} prepared in pursuance of resolution 3362 (S-VII) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventh special session in September 1975,

Noting that although the contribution of African States to the formulation of strategies for the third United Nations Development Decade has so far been marginal, they strongly desire to intensify their participation in the elaboration of an international strategy for the restructuring of world industry in the context of the third United Nations Development Decade,

1. Adopts with the reservation indicated in paragraph 2 below, the final text of document ECA/CMI/FCIA.6/WP/7, submitted by the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa as the common African position in negotiations at the Third General Conference of UNIDO, and in the preparation of the industrial input to the Organization of African Unity special Summit on Economic Development and the African input in the formulation of the industrial strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade;

2. Takes note of the proposals contained in the study entitled "Industry 2000: New perspectives" concerning the establishment of:

- (i) An international industrial technology institute;
- (ii) An international centre for the joint acquisition of technology;
- (iii) An international patent examination centre;
- (iv) An international industrial finance agency;
- (v) A global fund for the stimulation of industry;
- (vi) A commission for international industrial development law;
- (vii) A system for the resolution of industrial conflicts

^{2/} E/CN.14/INR/227.

^{3/} ID/CONF.4/3.

as well as the recommendations made in the same study related, inter alia, to:

- An international industrial finance and negotiations network;
- The promotion of barter or buy-back related investments;
- The increased use of intergovernmental framework and project agreements;
- The increased mobilization of the potential of medium-sized enterprises and other non-TNCs by the developing countries from industrialized countries.

3. Urges that the new financial institutions should accord priority to, and even consider allocating a percentage of their resources for the special needs of the least developed, land-locked, island and most seriously effected developing countries;

4. Calls upon African governments to study these proposals, taking into account the report of the expert group established by the Conference to refine the draft common African position on UNIDO III, with a view to finalizing the common African position on these proposals at a meeting of Plenipotentiaries to take place in Latin America in late November or early December 1979 prior to the meeting of the Group of 77 in preparation for the Third General Conference of UNIDO;

5. Directs attention to the need to adopt policies and strategies which would facilitate:

- (i) The achievement of African aspirations for self-sustaining and self-reliant accelerated industrial development; and
- (ii) Intra-African industrial co-operation at the continental and subregional levels related particularly to the expansion of intra-African industrial trade and increase efficient industrial exploitation of African agricultural, energy, mineral and other natural resources for the benefit of the African people through inter alia, the establishment of African multinational industrial corporations;

6. Calls upon African governments to intensify the efforts they are directing towards:

- (i) The development of industrial and technological manpower;
- (ii) Strengthening the technological capability of African countries in the development and commercialization of indigenous technologies and the appraisal, selection, acquisition and adaptation of foreign technologies;

- (iii) The development of appropriate institutional machinery at the national, subregional and regional levels for undertaking planning monitoring and serving activities for industrial and technological development;
- (iv) The use of more substantial amounts of national financial resources and the securing of an increased flow of external funds for industrial development;
- (v) The adoption of special measures in favour of the least developed, land-locked, island and most seriously effected developing countries;
- (vi) Increased technical and economic co-operation among the developing countries;
- (vii) The adoption of new machinery to ensure the flow of external financial and technical assistance in support of African efforts both at the national as well as at the subregional and regional levels, and in accordance with African development objectives;
- (viii) The proclamation of the period 1980-1989 as the African Industrial Development Decade; and
- (ix) The promotion of intra-African industrial co-operation through the identification and implementation of multi-national projects and the sharing of industrial training and research structures;

7. Urges the developed countries and international organizations to intensify and expand their financial and technical assistance to the African countries, both at the national as well as at the regional levels in carrying out the above and other industrial development programmes;

8. Reaffirms UNIDO's role as the focal point within the United Nations system for co-ordinating all matters and technical co-operation activities in the developing countries in the field of industrial development;

9. Welcomes in this context, the decision to convert UNIDO into a United Nations Specialized Agency, and urges all Member States of the United Nations to sign and ratify the new Constitution;

10. Urges accordingly that UNIDO's activities be strengthened and expanded especially in the following priority areas:

- (i) Operational field activities;
- (ii) Development and transfer of technology;

- (iii) Improved system and procedures for the regular collection, compilation and dissemination to the developing countries of industrial and technical information, particularly on net resource transfer from developed to the developing countries;
- (iv) Pre-investment and investment promotion activities;
- (v) Industrial consultations which should be undertaken on a permanent basis and technical and financial assistance provided to all African countries to facilitate preparation, effective participation and follow-up on these consultation meetings;
- (vi) Special measures for the least developed, land-locked, island, and most seriously affected developing countries;
- (vii) Economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries; and
- (viii) Industrial studies with particular emphasis on the evaluation, in more precise terms, of efforts made by the African countries, individually and collectively, towards the achievement of the Lima target.

To this effect the internal structure should be adjusted to enable the organization effectively carry out its activities particularly on the above mentioned priorities;

11. Further urges that the field presence of UNIDO be strengthened through the expansion and improvement of the Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser's programme and the number of African SIDFA's should be greatly increased;

12. Calls upon governments to increase their contribution to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund so as to enable UNIDO more effectively carry out its mandate and to cope with the increasing requirements of the developing countries;

13. Requests the Secretary-General of the OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA to communicate this resolution and the text of document ECA/CMI/FCIA.6/WP/7 on the common African position on UNIDO III to the relevant authorities in all member States of the OAU;

14. Urges all African countries to ensure that the contents of this resolution and the final text of document ECA/CMI/FCIA.6/WP/7 are brought to the full attention of their delegations to:

- (i) The special session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board devoted to final arrangements for UNIDO III scheduled to take place in Vienna from 12 to 16 November 1979;
- (ii) The meeting of the Group of 77 scheduled to take place in Latin America between late November and early December 1979 to elaborate its common position in UNIDO; and
- (iii) To the Conference itself scheduled to take place in New Delhi, India, from 21 January to 8 February 1980;

15. Requests the Executive Secretary of the ECA, the Secretary-General of the OAU and the Executive Director of UNIDO to, in accordance with the endorsement of the OAU Heads of State and Government to declare the period 1980-1989 as the African Industrial Development Decade and in collaboration with other international organizations, assist the African countries in drawing up and implementing a comprehensive plan of action at the national, regional and global levels in the achievement of the objectives of the decade;

16. Requests the Executive Director of UNIDO to take into full consideration the contents of this resolution and the final document on the common African position on UNIDO III in the final UNIDO headquarters preparations for the Conference;

17. Expresses its appreciation to the secretariats of the ECA, OAU and UNIDO for the assistance in the preparatory work towards the adoption of a common African position on UNIDO and the Government of Kenya, for hosting the African Regional Symposium.